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EDUCATION WEEK

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Consensus Builds To Set National Education Goals

Agreement on Agenda For Summit Reached

By Julie A. Miller and Reagan Walker

WASHINGTON—A consensus was building last week that President Bush's upcoming education summit with the nation's governors should produce national educational goals and a strategy for achieving them.

In a meeting with John Sununu, the White House chief of staff, and Roger Porter, domestic-policy adviser, key governors agreed last week that the summit will aim at producing national goals for school performance and loosening the strings that restrict state use of federal funds.

Earlier in the week, the White House had appeared reluctant to promise that the summit would focus on the need to establish national goals.

Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas and Gov. Carroll Campbell of South Carolina, who met with the White House officials after hearing from representatives from the education community, also agreed that the Sept. 27-28 meeting in Charlottesville, Va., will focus on six topics.

The topics to be discussed are teaching, especially recruitment and retention of talented teachers; the learning environment, including drugs and crime and the health needs of at-risk children; restructuring schools and parental choice; lifelong learning and worker retraining; higher education and federal student aid; and the roles of federal, state, and local governments in educational improvement.

In addition, the governors agreed to a format that will consist mostly of roundtable discussions closed to the public. Those events that will be open include a speech and a news conference by President Bush, and a welcoming ceremony and closing news conference to feature the governors.

Continued on Page 19

In Backing Tax Proposals, Voters Endorse Detroit School Reforms

By William Snider

Less than a year after issuing an electoral mandate for the reform of their beleaguered school system, Detroit voters last week endorsed the district's subsequent changes in leadership and direction by soundly approving two costly tax proposals.

One of the proposals allows the nation's seventh-largest district to enter the 1990's with a clean financial slate. The district has been authorized to sell bonds to pay off an operating deficit that has grown during the past 15 years to more than $150 million.

The second proposal provides the system with some $70 million in new revenues for the coming year. Those funds will enable it to avert drastic program cuts and employee layoffs, finance a 6 percent increase in employee salaries, and embark on the first stages of an ambitious, 10-year reform plan.

"I'm ecstatic. I keep pinching myself to

Continued on Page 23

William Delay/Detroit Free Press

A Detroit student marches on Election Day in support of school-funding plans.

AACTE Decides Not To Support Teaching Board

Educator Group Assails Plans for Certification

By Ann Bradley

WASHINGTON—In the first formal opposition to the national effort to certify highly skilled teachers, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education voted last week not to support the work of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

At its semiannual meeting here, the association's board of directors voted unanimously to urge the board to reconsider its proposed requirements for national certification.

AACTE, which represents more than 700 colleges and universities that train teachers, objected to the national board's decision not to tie eligibility for certification to such "quality controls" as state licensure and graduation from an accredited teacher-education program.

The national board had decided this summer to offer the opportunity to become nationally certified to any teacher who has a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, and who has successfully completed three years of teaching at one or more elementary or secondary schools.

"The National Board purports in its initial policy report to complement existing controls, but in fact the board has proposed bypassing current program approval, licensure, and accreditation procedures," according to a statement released by John I. Goodlad, president of AACTE, after the association's meeting last week.

The association "fears that the national board's approach to assure quality will lower the very quality the board seeks to elevate," the statement says.

The national board plans to develop a set of complex assessments of knowledge and performance with which to measure accomplished teaching. It intends to begin offering certificates in 29 fields by 1993.

Continued on Page 21

Grant Awards for E.D. Centers Will Set U.S. Research Agenda for Years To Come

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—The Education Department last week announced plans to award grants for 12 research centers next year in a competition that will determine a significant portion of the federal education-research agenda for years to come.

Grants for 14 of the 19 centers now funded by the department's office of educational research and improvement will lapse in 1990. The $17.8 million spent on all of the centers in fiscal 1989 accounted for more than half of O.E.R.I.'s nonstatistical research budget.

The grants awarded in next year's competition will represent nearly 80 percent of the agency's budget for center-based research.

"This is the most significant single event in shaping the research agenda," said Jerry Sroufe, director of governmental and professional liaison for the American Educational Research Association. "It's nearly the whole enchilada."

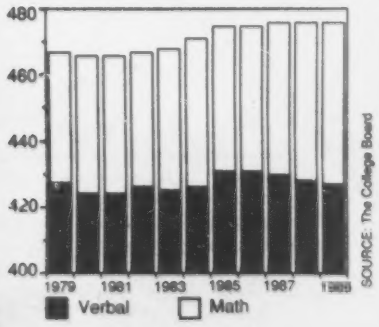
The grants competition will be O.E.R.I.'s largest since 1985, when all nine of the then-extant centers were reconsidered. Of that group, only four retained research agendas similar to their previous ones.

The proposal published in the Sept. 12 *Federal Register* includes nine subject areas similar or identical to those covered by existing centers, although the "mission" of some were revised substantially. *(See list on page 18.)*

Five centers would be eliminated under

Continued on Page 18

Also in the news



5 Lackluster S.A.T. Scoring
The hold-even math performance and dip in verbal scores are joined by a decline on the A.C.T.

Experts Hope Report Returns Youth-Suicide Issue to Front Burner

By Lisa Jennings

WASHINGTON—Youth suicide was a dominant national concern when the secretary of health and human services convened a special task force in 1984 to study it.

Margaret Heckler was secretary then, and the newspapers and airwaves were filled with reports of suicide's staggering youthful toll: an average of 13 lives a day in the 15-to-24-year-old age group.

Five years later, the statistics are no more encouraging. Yet the massive, four-volume report compiled by Ms. Heckler's committee—a document many say is the most comprehensive to date on the subject—has received only scant media attention since its release last month.

To researchers and other experts in the field, this lack of impact has more to say about the emergence of other youth problems than the effectiveness of the suicide-prevention programs mounted in intervening years.

Particularly in school-based intervention, said David Shaffer, director of the division of child psychiatry for the New York State Psychiatric Institute, "a lot of people have already made a lot of wrong assumptions."

Drug use and its associated violence, as well as efforts to curb the spread of AIDS, have stolen the spotlight from teenage suicide, other experts said last week. The latest available federal statistics show that homicide has replaced suicide as the second-leading cause of death (behind accidents) in the 15-to-24 age group. But suicide remains "about neck and neck" with murder, according to researchers.

And, unlike the effort being expended in the war on drugs, there is no coordinated attack on the problem of youth suicide, they complained.

"This whole issue seems to have been put on a back burner," said Charlotte Ross, director of the Youth Suicide National Center in San Mateo, Calif. "I really hope it doesn't stay there."

Said Dr. Shaffer, who served on a working group for the H.H.S. task force: "The good thing this report has done is take the lead in making research on youth suicide a much higher priority."

Completed two years ago but delayed by bureaucratic snarls, the "Secretary's Report on Youth Suicide" offers the first assessment of the field of play in prevention efforts since youth-suicide programs began

Continued on Page 20

IN SUMMARY

Physically Unfit
American students today are heavier and slower, but somewhat stronger, than were their counterparts of a decade ago, according to a new study by the Amateur Athletic Union. **Page 5.**

Controversial Credit Card
The Young Americans Bank of Denver plans to offer credit cards to children age 12 and older, but a national financial-education group is mounting a campaign to stop it. **Page 5.**

Teaching Democracy
The five U.S.-history textbooks most widely used in high schools give short shrift to major figures and themes, and fail to teach the history of democracy, a new report charges. **Page 6.**

Freeing Student Speech
Ohio is joining the ranks of states considering legislation that would for the most part prevent school officials from censoring student publications, except in cases of obscenity or libel. **Page 7.**

West Virginians Speak
Voters in the Mountain State last week rejected a constitutional amendment that would have abolished the independent state board of education and school superintendent. **Page 7.**

Medicaid Mandates
The nation's governors have warned the Congress that expensive new mandates now being proposed for the Medicaid program may lead to cuts in state education funding. **Page 7.**

Education Budget
The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved a fiscal 1990 budget of $23.7 billion for the Education Department, an increase of some $1 billion over this year. **Page 14.**

Awards	27
Books	26
Capital Update	14
Commentary	24 and 32
Curriculum	6
Deadlines	27
Events	27
Marketplace	28
State Journal	7

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Japanese Firm Gives $1 Million To C.E.D. for Education Program

Daiwa Securities Company of Tokyo has given the Committee for Economic Development $1 million to establish an endowment for a permanent education-studies program.

Robert C. Holland, C.E.D.'s president, said the grant marks the first time a Japanese firm "has targeted such a gift to improving U.S. elementary and secondary education."

Takuro Isoda, chairman of Daiwa Securities America, said the gesture recognizes C.E.D.'s role as "a national leader in developing sound policies for improving public education in the United States."

The nonprofit organization, whose board of directors includes university presidents and the leaders of major corporations, has been active in promoting business involvement in education. Its 1987 report, "Children in Need: Investment Strategies for the Educationally Disadvantaged," has been influential in promoting early educational intervention for disadvantaged students.

The gift will establish the Owen B. Butler Program in Education Studies, named for C.E.D.'s chairman who has led the group's education activities for the past seven years. Mr. Butler is the retired chairman of the board of the Procter & Gamble Company, where he now serves as a consultant.

■ **The National Center on Education and the Economy has formed a commission to examine why the United States is losing its economic edge** and to recommend strategies to improve workers' skills.

The Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce plans to spend seven months interviewing policymakers, employers, educators, and employees in the United States and six other nations—Sweden, Japan, Singapore, Ireland, West Germany, and South Korea. The group hopes to compile "the largest database of its kind" comparing skill-development policies in the seven countries, a spokesman for the project said.

The panel, to be headed by Ira C. Magaziner, an international business strategist, will include business and labor leaders, educators, and government officials.

The project is being paid for by a $250,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York with additional support from businesses, unions, and universities.

The commission will examine the role of government policies, education, and training in boosting workers' skills. It will meet for the first time next month.

■ **A coalition of educators and housing advocates has released a model curriculum for schools to teach children about the homeless.**

At a Washington press conference, the National Education Association declared last week "National Housing Education Week," and issued copies of the curriculum guide to its more than 6,000 affiliates.

In addition, District of Columbia school officials agreed to use the curriculum in schools throughout the district in October.

The guide, developed by an organization called Housing Now, includes materials for grades 4 through 12.

Its goal is to "dispel the myths about the homeless," and to help students overcome prejudices against homeless children in their schools and adults they may meet.

The curriculum also encourages children to write the Congress to urge it to find a solution to homelessness and to increase affordable housing.

Housing Now has invited students across the country to bring their letters to Washington as part of a march planned for Oct. 7.

■ **Sixty percent of Americans rate public schools as "only fair" or "poor,"** according to a poll by Louis Harris & Associates released last week.

In 1986, a similar Harris poll reported that 54 percent of those surveyed thought public education in the United States was "pretty good" or "excellent." Both polls asked respondents to rate public education according to one of those four categories.

The telephone poll, which was conducted last month, surveyed 1,250 adults nationwide. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

STATES

Oklahoma Board Offers Fast Track To Special-Education Certification

To ease a serious statewide shortage of special educators, Oklahoma education officials have approved a plan to offer regular-classroom teachers a quick route to special-education certification.

Under the "emergency certification" plan, approved last month by the state school board and the state regents for higher education, regular-classroom teachers can be certified to teach handicapped students if they undergo an intensive, one-week course in special education. The teachers must also agree to complete six more credit hours of special-education coursework during the year they are certified.

The certificates can be renewed for a second year if teachers agree to continue working toward full special-education certification.

Special-education officials said the state has been facing an increasing shortage of special educators for several years. Last year, Oklahoma districts reported vacancies in 437 special-education jobs—up from 360 in the previous year.

■ **Public agencies, such as school districts, that settle lawsuits are obliged to make the settlements public,** the Alaska Supreme Court has ruled.

The court delivered its opinion Sept. 1, affirming a lower-court decision that the Anchorage *Daily News* had the right to publish the terms of a settlement between the Anchorage school district and W.R. Grace & Co. The settlement arose out of a school-district suit over asbestos removal at an Anchorage high school. W.R. Grace paid the district $10.2 million in 1988 as part of that settlement.

The newspaper had requested that the terms of the settlement be released, but school officials refused to provide the information. The newspaper obtained the data elsewhere, and printed the story anyway. The lower court then ruled in the paper's favor.

In affirming that decision, the supreme court stated, "It is more important that [Alaskans] have access to this type of information than that it remain confidential."

■ **It costs Maryland taxpayers $154 each to provide public assistance to families of teenage mothers,** a new study has found.

In 1987, the study found, the federal and state governments combined spent more than $454 million to provide assistance to 6,633 Maryland teenagers who became mothers for the first time. State funds accounted for almost $180 million of the assistance. The study also found that mothers between the ages of 15 and 17 received the most public support because they were more likely to drop out of school and live on their own.

Researchers at the University of Baltimore conducted the study for "Campaign For Our Children," a nonprofit organization that works with the state government to promote abstinence among adolescents.

■ **The Getty Center for Education in the Arts has awarded grants totaling $3.75 million to consortia of educational and cultural organizations in six states** to restructure the way the visual arts are taught in American public schools.

Located in Florida, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas, the consortia will receive $625,000 each, to be awarded over five years in annual $125,000 increments.

A Back-to-School Ritual

Jeff Kavin/Phoenix Newspapers Inc.

Several students gather at a clinic in Maricopa County, Ariz., for immunizations. A high demand for measles vaccinations made for long waits, officials said.

The consortia of school districts, universities, state departments of education, art museums, and other cultural organizations will use the grants, supplemented by matching funds they are required to raise, to establish regional institutes to train teachers, administrators, and others in the theory and practice of art education. The Getty center advocates that art be taught with the same emphasis as other basic disciplines.

The six institutes will serve public schools, universities, and art museums in their own states and others by developing curricular materials and encouraging adoption of art-education requirements in teacher-preparation and museum-education programs.

DISTRICTS

7 New York Companies To Provide Emergency Child-Care Services

Seven major New York City-based companies have launched an ambitious experiment to provide emergency child-care services in the homes of employees whose children are ill or whose usual caregivers become unavailable.

The yearlong pilot program, which its sponsors say is the most comprehensive of its kind, will supply licensed caregivers from two home health-care agencies to employees whose child-care arrangements fall through.

Its goal is to cut down on employee absenteeism caused by such events as a child's illness, an unexpected business trip, or the closing of a day-care center as a result of inclement weather.

"When a parent has to respond to a child's cold or a caregiver's cancellation, the emergency becomes the employer's problem if that employee is unable to come to work," said Nancy Kolben, deputy director of Child Care Inc., the nonprofit child-care resource and referral agency that is coordinating the program. The Child Care Action Campaign, a national child-care advocacy group, has estimated that such absences cost businesses $3 billion a year.

The Colgate-Palmolive Company, Consolidated Edison Company, Ernst & Young, Home Box Office, National Westminster Bank U.S.A., the law firm of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, and Time Inc. are participating in the experiment. Five of the companies will pay the care's full cost; two will require employees to cover a small portion of the cost.

Students File Suit Against E.T.S. After Test Scores Are Invalidated

Twenty-seven students from Crescenta Valley High School in Glendale, Calif., have filed suit in federal court to force the Educational Testing Service to reinstate their scores on Advanced Placement examinations.

The Princeton, N.J.-based testing firm had invalidated the scores of 79 Crescenta Valley students who took A.P. tests in biology, U.S. history, and English language and composition after 7 students admitted cheating on them when they were administered last May. The firm asked the 79 students to retake the tests, and scheduled new examinations this month.

The original administration of the tests "contained so many incidents of failure to adhere to the guidelines that we could not confirm the validity of any scores," according to Tom Ewing, a spokesman for the E.T.S.

But the students, claiming that their right to due process of law was violated, sought a temporary restraining order to block the retests. Although U.S. District Judge Stephen Wilson denied their request, the students and their parents plan to press their suit to seek damages and to have their original scores reinstated, according to a district spokesman.

■ Teachers in Los Angeles will vote later this fall on whether nonunion members must pay a fee to United Teachers of Los Angeles for bargaining services.

The board of education voted 5 to 2 on Sept. 11 to grant the union "agency fee" rights, provided a majority of the city's 33,000 teachers agree. Currently, the union's 23,000 members pay $410 in dues a year.

California law permits unions to charge non-members for collective-bargaining services, but a recent state supreme-court ruling prohibits charging them for political activities or membership drives.

Catherine M. Carey, communications director for the Los Angeles union, said nonmembers in California districts with "fair share" arrangements generally are charged 85 percent of full union dues.

If a similar fee structure is approved for Los Angeles, the union would take in approximately $3.48 million in extra dues.

"What we want the fee for is to provide the services and the resources to service everybody, and that's what we're doing now on member dues," Ms. Carey explained.

The state Public Employment Relations Board, which will set the amount non-union teachers must pay, will schedule school-site elections sometime before Nov. 1.

■ Some parents at a Bryn Mawr, Pa., Catholic elementary school are angry about a requirement that they sell $100 raffle tickets to avoid a steep tuition increase.

The St. Thomas-Good Counsel School has asked parents with one child in the school to pay $700 in tuition, plus sell three $100 raffle tickets.

Parents who don't participate will be charged $1,100 in tuition, which pays for the raffle tickets plus a $100 penalty. Families with more than one child in the school have been asked to take more raffle tickets. The raffle, the school's major fund raiser, will be held next March.

The Rev. James E. Martinez, pastor of one of the two parishes that run the school, declined comment on reports that many parents were angry and were considering removing their children from the school.

In a letter to parents, quoted by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, church officials said the advantage of the raffle plan is that it means participating parents will "have little, if any, increase in tuition." Tuition for one child last year was $625.

DIMENSIONS

The Value of a College Diploma

The value of a college diploma is growing every day, according to data in a recent issue of *The College Board Review*. In 1973, the article—by Frank Levy, an economist at the University of Maryland—says, the difference between the average income of a 30-year-old man with a high-school diploma and a similar man with a college degree was 16 percent. By 1986, that difference had jumped to 50 percent.

"The corresponding gap for women did *not* open in a parallel way," Mr. Levy writes, "because women were concentrated in the service sector and so were shielded from import competition."

Mr. Levy blames the income gap on the budget and trade deficits and on income stagnations, all of which, he argues, are making college less affordable for more Americans. Slow productivity and growth may well put college of out reach of the middle class as well as the poor, he suggests.

Copies of *The College Board Review*, No. 152, Summer 1989, are available for $6 each from College Board Publications, Box 886, New York, N.Y. 10101-0886.

	Average income of 30-year-old man 12 years school	Average income of 30-year-old man 4 years college	High school-college income gap
1973	$24,388	$28,157	16%
1986	$18,257	$27,309	50%

UPDATE

■ More cases of measles have been reported in the United States this year than in any year since 1980, the federal Centers for Disease Control has reported.

According to health officials, 10,115 cases of measles have been reported so far this year, nearly five times as many as were reported by this time last year. That is the highest total since 13,430 cases were reported for all of 1980. *(See Education Week, March 29, 1989.)*

■ A court-appointed lawyer has recommended that the college transcripts of Houston school administrators be released to a local newspaper.

The Houston school district will await a Sept. 28 district-court hearing before deciding whether to appeal the decision, said Ria Griffin, a district spokesman.

The district has been fighting a lawsuit filed last year by the *Houston Chronicle* after it was denied access to school administrators' college transcripts. The newspaper sought the records after it reported that between 5 and 25 school administrators had received mail-order degrees from an unaccredited California university. *(See Education Week, Sept. 7, 1988.)*

The lawyer, Virginia Sanders, recommended that some information, including religion, financial information, names of relatives, high school attended, health information, and results of intelligence tests, remain confidential.

MILESTONES

■ Paul Gann, the political activist whose work in support of voter initiatives dramatically altered education funding in California, died last week at the age of 77.

Mr. Gann was co-author of Proposition 13, which halved property taxes in California and placed restrictive limits on future increases after it was approved by voters in 1978. The success of the initiative spawned similar tax-cutting measures in other states.

The following year he sponsored another successful initiative that has since become known as the "Gann spending limit"—an amendment to the California constitution that restricts annual growth in state and local government budgets.

The combination of the spending and revenue-raising restrictions created financial difficulties for many of the state's school districts. Educators and their allies responded last year with a successful campaign for Proposition 98, a constitutional amendment that mandates steady increases in state school aid.

PEOPLE

■ Manuel J. Justiz, former director of the now-defunct National Institute of Education, will become dean of education at the University of Texas at Austin on Jan. 1, ending a two-year search by the school.

Mr. Justiz, 40, served under former Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell as director of the institute—once the research division of the U.S. Department of Education—which was abolished during a reorganization in 1986. Currently, Mr. Justiz teaches at the University of South Carolina and serves as senior adviser to the Education Commission of the States in its studies of state policy and minority achievement.

He succeeds Lorrin Kennamer, who resigned in 1987.

An Offer Declined

For the Dallas Independent School District, it was an offer too good *not* to refuse.

Businessman Charles Cross recently drove his white BMW to Dallas's Carter High School, parked it out front with the keys in the ignition, and announced to cheering students that, for the rest of the school year, winners of weekly drawings would win the right to use the luxury car for a week.

The idea, according to Mr. Cross, was to reward students who remained in school, stayed out of trouble, and maintained good grades. He also promised $1,000 cash awards at the end of six-week grading periods and $2,500 at the end of semesters.

The offer stunned Dallas school administrators, who drafted a polite letter suggesting that Mr. Davis, an economist and investor, "redirect" his resources, perhaps toward college scholarships, a spokesman said.

"How in the world can we continue to lure children with these material things?" wondered Thomas G. Jones, a school board member."

Materialism already has been a source of controversy at Carter, whose students come from middle- and upper-middle-class families.

This past summer, according to news accounts, 12 former and current students were arrested on armed robbery charges, accused of stealing cash from video stores and restaurants to buy expensive clothing and jewelry and to finance high-stakes dice games. In some cases, police charged, the robbers used their parents' cars to make their getaway.

Mr. Cross, defending his offer, said, "Many times children think they have to wait until they're 50 to see a reward. We wanted to reward them now."

—N.M.